

## **Project Title**

Footsteps of the Silk Road: Bridges from Culture to Commerce

## **Our Aim**

This project aims to develop cultural understanding, social harmony, economic awareness, and a modern culture of trade among young people by exploring the historical, cultural, and economic values of the Gaziantep region. We seek to facilitate a rediscovery of the historic Silk Road, not as a relic of the past, but as a living concept that highlights the Southeastern Anatolia Region's enduring role in shaping trade, cultural exchange, and coexistence. The project will connect this rich heritage to the present by introducing participants to the region's powerful export potential in the contemporary global economy, driven by the more than 10,000 members of the Southeast Anatolian Textile and Raw Materials Exporters' Association in textile sector. Our goal is to empower a new generation of Europeans with an appreciation for how cultural depth and economic innovation are woven together in modern international trade.

## **Our Training Model**

The program will adopt an interactive and participatory approach rooted in the methodologies of non-formal and experiential learning, which are central to the Erasmus+ Youth Exchange framework. Through a dynamic blend of workshops, guided visits to cultural and production sites, intercultural events, and open-air discussions, the project will provide participants with tangible opportunities to connect the region's social, cultural, and economic history with its present-day realities. Our facilitators will cultivate an inclusive and reflective environment where participants can explore not only their shared cultural heritage but also the evolution of cooperation, dialogue, and sustainable trade in modern societies, aligning with our organization's strategic focus on the European Green Deal.

## **Why This Project?**

Positioned at a historic crossroads of civilizations, Gaziantep has for centuries been a vibrant hub for merchants, artisans, and cultural exchange along the Silk Road. We believe participants will benefit immensely from experiencing this unique fusion of deep history and a dynamic modern economy. By learning how trade and culture fostered coexistence in the past, participants will gain valuable insights into how diversity and cooperation can build bridges toward a shared future. This project offers a unique opportunity to witness firsthand how historical heritage is transmitted and preserved, while also understanding how that same heritage becomes a valuable, innovative, and marketable asset in today's global Marketplace a core principle driving our mission to promote the region's exports and foster design excellence through initiatives.

## **Further Details & Selection**

The project activity will take place in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, Türkiye over 9 days during 2026 (final dates to be agreed). A total of 27 participants from 8 countries will join the program. Each partner will select 3 participants, ensuring both quality representation and gender balance.

Selection will prioritize young people with interest in culture, history, economy, trade and social dialogue.

If you're interested in partnership please send your filled partnership form WITH YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND (500-1000 character) to: [projects@gaib.org.tr](mailto:projects@gaib.org.tr) until 21.09.2025 23:59 (GMT+3)